



# TEXT COMPLEXITY: QUALITATIVE MEASURES RUBRIC

## LITERARY TEXTS



### LAYERS OF MEANING

#### High

- ☐ **Meaning:** multiple layers of interpretation exist and most lean toward complex, abstract meaning

#### Middle High

- ☐ **Meaning:** three or more layers of interpretation exist and include some complex and abstract meaning

#### Middle Low

- ☐ **Meaning:** at least two layers of interpretation exist largely made up of simple, concrete meaning

#### Low

- ☐ **Meaning:** a single interpretation of simple, concrete meaning predominates

### STRUCTURE

#### High

- ☐ **Narrative Structure:** complex, implicit, and unconventional
- ☐ **Narration:** many shifts in point of view and/or perspective
- ☐ **Order of Events:** not in chronological order
- ☐ **Use of Graphics:** sophisticated graphics, essential to understanding the text, may also provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text

#### Middle High

- ☐ **Narrative Structure:** some complexities, more implicit than explicit, some unconventionality
- ☐ **Narration:** occasional shifts in point of view and/or perspective
- ☐ **Order of Events:** several major shifts in time, use of flashback
- ☐ **Use of Graphics:** some sophisticated graphics, may occasionally be essential to understanding the text

#### Middle Low

- ☐ **Narrative Structure:** largely simple structure, more explicit than implicit, largely conventional,
- ☐ **Narration:** few, if any, shifts in point of view and/or perspective
- ☐ **Order of Events:** occasional use of flashback, no major shifts in time
- ☐ **Use of Graphics:** largely simple graphics, supplementary to understanding of the text

#### Low

- ☐ **Narrative Structure:** simple, explicit, conventional
- ☐ **Narration:** no shifts in point of view or perspective
- ☐ **Order of Events:** chronological
- ☐ **Use of Graphics:** use of simple graphics, unnecessary to understand the text

### LANGUAGE CONVENTIONALITY AND CLARITY

#### High

- ☐ **Meaning:** implicit or inferred meaning, heavy use of figurative or ironic language, may be purposefully ambiguous or misleading at times
- ☐ **Register:** generally unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic

#### Middle High

- ☐ **Meaning:** some implicit or inferred meaning, use of figurative or ironic language
- ☐ **Register:** occasionally unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic

#### Middle Low

- ☐ **Meaning:** largely explicit and literal meaning, subtle use of figurative or ironic language
- ☐ **Register:** largely contemporary, familiar, conversational, rarely unfamiliar, archaic, domain-specific, or overly academic

#### Low

- ☐ **Meaning:** explicit and literal meaning, little or no use of figurative or ironic language
- ☐ **Register:** contemporary, familiar, conversational

### KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS

#### High

- ☐ **Life Experiences:** explores complex, sophisticated, multiple themes; experiences portrayed are not fantasy but are distinctly different from the common reader
- ☐ **Cultural/Literary Knowledge:** many references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements
- ☐ **Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires extensive, perhaps specialized content knowledge

#### Middle High

- ☐ **Life Experiences:** explores multiple themes of varying levels of complexity; experiences portrayed are not fantasy but are uncommon to most readers
- ☐ **Cultural/Literary Knowledge:** some references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements
- ☐ **Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires moderate levels of content knowledge

#### Middle Low

- ☐ **Life Experiences:** explores a single complex theme; experiences portrayed are common to many readers or are clearly fantasy
- ☐ **Cultural/Literary Knowledge:** few references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements
- ☐ **Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires some content knowledge

#### Low

- ☐ **Life Experiences:** explores a single theme; experiences portrayed are everyday and common or are clearly fantasy
- ☐ **Cultural/Literary Knowledge:** no references/allusions to other texts (intertextuality) and cultural elements
- ☐ **Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires only everyday content knowledge